(a) whether the Central Government was required to grant to Government of Maharashtra an amount of Rs. 8675 crores for 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 for Panchayati Raj Institutions as recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission; and

(b) the reasons for the amounts being not released as yet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Tenth Finance Commission has recommended for the Panchayati Raj Institutions of Maharashtra a total grant of Rs. 347.01 crores (Rs. 86.75 crores each for 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 and Rs. 86.76 crores for 1999-2000). A sum of Rs. 216.88 crores has already been released. The balance amount of Rs. 130.13 crores will be released on completion by the State Government of the requirements stipulated in the guidelines.

Tax incentives to Textiles Industry

2053. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the steps taken to provide tax incentives for capital goods as well as raw materials in textile industry for development of infrastructure to facilitate more exports of textiles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): There is no tax incentive designed specifically for the textile sector for development of infrastructure to facilitate more exports. However both under the Customs and Central Excise Act and Income Tax Act, certain incentives are available for investment in development of infrastructure. These facilities can be availed also by the textile sector.

For individual exporters also there are several tax incentives under the various Export Promotion Schemes both for import of machinery and raw materials to facilitate exports. These can also be availed by exporters textile sector.